

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1-27, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter. Please amend Claims 38, 42-52, 55, and 58 as indicated below. The following is a complete listing of claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

Claims 1-37 (canceled).

Claim 38 (currently amended): An image processing system in which an image input apparatus and an image output apparatus are connected via a serial bus,

wherein [[said]] the image input apparatus comprises:

input means for inputting image data of a first format;

determination means for determining whether to convert the image data of the first format into image data of a second format, wherein ~~said determination means determines whether to convert a format of the image data on the basis of an empty state of the buffer in said image output apparatus;~~

first conversion means for converting the image data of the first format into the image data of the second format ~~based on the basis of~~ a determination result; and

first communication means for transmitting the image data of the first format or the image data of the second format to [[said]] the image output apparatus, and

[[said]] wherein the image output apparatus comprises:

second communication means for receiving [[the]] image data transferred transmitted from [[said]] the image input apparatus;

holding means for temporarily holding the received image data in a buffer having a predetermined capacity;

second conversion means for, if the image data held in the buffer [[has]] is image data of the first format, converting the image data into image data of the second format; and

output means for sequentially outputting the image data of the second format,

wherein a conversion of image data performed by each of the first conversion means and the second conversion means includes a color correction process, a decompression process, and a conversion process, and

wherein the second conversion means converts image data in accordance with the conversion process performed by the first conversion means.

Claim 39 (original): The system according to claim 38, wherein the first format is a compressed data format, and the second format is a data format obtained by decompressing image data of the first format.

Claim 40 (original): The system according to claim 39, wherein the first format is a JPEG format.

Claim 41 (canceled)

Claim 42 (currently amended): The system according to claim 38, wherein  
[[said]] the determination means determines makes a determination to convert the image data of  
the first format of the image data when the buffer is full.

Claim 43 (currently amended): The system according to claim 42, wherein  
[[said]] the determination means determines makes a determination to convert the image data of  
the first format of the image data when [[said]] the serial bus is detected to be busy in said by the  
first communication means.

Claim 44 (currently amended): The system according to claim 42, wherein  
[[said]] the second communication means notifies [[said]] the image input  
apparatus of buffer information representing [[the]] an empty state of the buffer, and  
[[said]] the determination means determines whether to convert the image data  
of the first format of the image data on the basis of based on the buffer information.

Claim 45 (currently amended): The system according to claim 44, wherein  
[[said]] the second communication means issues an image data format  
conversion request to [[said]] the image input apparatus based on the basis of the empty state of  
the buffer, and,

when the image data format conversion request is received, [[said]] the determination means determines makes a determination to convert the image data of the first format of the image data.

Claim 46 (currently amended): The system according to claim 45, wherein [[said]] the second communication means issues the image data format conversion request when the buffer is full.

Claim 47 (currently amended): The system according to claim 38, wherein [[said]] the determination means determines makes a determination in units of predetermined blocks as to whether to convert [[a]] the image data of the first format of the image data, and

each of [[said]] the first conversion means and the second conversion means converts the image data of the first format into the image data of the second format for all blocks after a block [[said]] that the determination means determines makes a determination to convert.

Claim 48 (currently amended): The system according to claim 38, wherein [[said]] the determination means determines makes a determination in units of predetermined blocks whether to convert [[a]] the image data of the first format of the image data, and

each of [[said]] the first conversion means and the second conversion means

converts the image data of the first format into the image data of the second format for only a block [[said]] that the determination means determines makes a determination to convert.

Claim 49 (currently amended): The system according to claim 47, wherein  
[[said]] the determination means determines makes a determination not to convert the image data of the first format of the image data for a first block [[in]] of the image data of the first format.

Claim 50 (currently amended): The system according to claim 47, wherein  
[[said]] the image input apparatus further comprises:

decision means for comparing a performance of [[said]] the first conversion means with a performance of [[said]] the second conversion means for a first block [[in]] of the image data of the first format, and for deciding to perform conversion processing by a conversion means exhibiting higher performance.

Claim 51 (currently amended): The system according to claim 38, wherein  
[[said]] the serial bus is a bus compatible or complying with or in compliance with [[the]] an IEEE 1394 standard.

Claim 52 (currently amended): The system according to claim 38, wherein  
[[said]] the serial bus is a bus compatible or complying with or in compliance with [[the]] a USB standard.

Claims 53 and 54 (canceled).

Claim 55 (currently amended): A control method of an image processing system in which an image input apparatus and an image output apparatus are connected via a serial bus, the image output apparatus having a buffer, [[said]] the method comprising:

in the image input apparatus,

[[the]] an input step of inputting image data of a first format;

[[the]] a determination step of determining whether to convert the image data of the first format into image data of a second format, wherein the determination step comprises determining whether to convert a format of the image data on the basis of an empty state of the buffer in the image output apparatus;

[[the]] a first conversion step of converting the image data of the first format into the image data of the second format based on the basis of a determination result; and

[[the]] a transmission step of transmitting the image data of the first format or the image data of the second format to the image output apparatus, and

in the image output apparatus,

[[the]] a reception step of receiving [[the]] image data transferred transmitted from the image input apparatus;

[[the]] a holding step of temporarily holding the received image data in the buffer, which has a predetermined capacity;

[[the]] a second conversion step of, if the image data held in the buffer

[[has]] is image data of the first format, converting the image data into image data of the second format; and

[[the]] an output step of sequentially outputting the image data of the second format,

wherein a conversion of image data performed in each of the first conversion step and the second conversion step includes a color correction process, a decompression process, and a conversion process, and

wherein the second conversion step includes converting the image data in accordance with the conversion process performed in the first conversion step.

Claim 56 (original): The method according to claim 55, wherein the first format is a compressed data format, and the second format is a data format obtained by decompressing image data of the first format.

Claim 57 (canceled).

Claim 58 (currently amended): A recording medium ~~which records~~ storing a control program of an image processing system in which an image input apparatus and an image output apparatus are connected via a serial bus, the image output apparatus having a buffer, wherein the control program comprises at least:

in the image input apparatus,

a code of [[the]] an input step of inputting image data of a first format;  
a code of [[the]] a determination step of determining whether to convert  
the image data of the first format into image data of a second format, ~~wherein the determination~~  
~~step comprises the step of determining whether to convert a format of the image data on the basis~~  
~~of an empty state of the buffer in the image output apparatus;~~

a code of [[the]] a first conversion step of converting the image data of  
the first format into the image data of the second format ~~based on the basis~~ of a determination  
result; and

a code of [[the]] a transmission step of transmitting the image data of  
the first format or the image data of the second format to the image output apparatus, and  
in the image output apparatus,

a code of [[the]] a reception step of receiving [[the]] image data  
transferred from the image input apparatus;

a code of [[the]] a holding step of temporarily holding the received  
image data in the buffer, which has a predetermined capacity;

a code of [[the]] a second conversion step of, if the image data held in  
the buffer [[has]] is image data of the first format, converting the image data into image data of  
the second format; and

a code of [[the]] an output step of sequentially outputting the image  
data of the second format,

wherein a conversion of image data performed in each of the first conversion

step and the second conversion step includes a color correction process, a decompression process, and a conversion process, and

wherein the second conversion step includes converting the image data in accordance with the conversion process performed in the first conversion step.